

SIM CARD FOR OPERATION WITH A TERMINAL DEVICE OF A MOBILE COMMUNICATION NETWORK

The invention pertains to a SIM card for operation with a terminal device of a mobile communications network according to the preamble of patent claim 1.

In mobile communication networks, so-called Telematic services are well known. Telematic services are basically machine-to-machine connections or applications, wherein Telematic applications include vehicle services as well as services in machines. The purpose of these applications is basically to record events and measured data and to regulate and control corresponding processes. Moreover, these services are, in general, performed automatically, i.e. without human intervention.

Examples of Telematic services in vehicles are:

- Emergency services
- Roadside assistance service
- Remote control / remote access
- Remote vehicle diagnostics
- Vehicle tracking
- Vehicle data recording

Examples of Telematic services in machines are:

- Recording of counter status
- Recording of fill levels
- Recording of states and control
- Remote diagnostics
- Software download

The information exchange needed for this service can be accomplished through mobile communication networks.

All of these Telematic services are characterized in that in general the communication that takes place is between two fixed communication partners. The media used for the transfer can be DTMF, SMS, GSM-CSD, GPRS and UMTS according to prior art, language and signaling channels.

The objective of this invention is to provide a SIM card for operation in a terminal device of a mobile communication network that in particular best supports Telematic services.

This objective is met according to the invention by the features of patent claim 1.

Advantageous embodiments and developments of the invention are given in the dependent claims.

An essential feature of the invention is that the SIM card can only establish connections to fixed destination addresses and/or can only be solicited by fixed source addresses. It is advantageous that the SIM card is designed as a special Telematic SIM card.

The mobile phone subscriber relationship can, for example, be operated exclusively within a defined virtual private network (VPN). To accomplish this, the permissible source-destination relationships are stored in the SIM card or stored in a database in the intelligent network. A communication relationship from and to subscribers outside the VPN is fundamentally impossible.

According to the invention, the necessary administration processes for the issuance of the Telematic SIM card must be set up, which preferably can be provided with the following characteristics:

1. Testing the destination and source addresses in the form of a phone number, URL (Uniform Resource Locator), or APN (Access Point Name), with which the Telematic SIM card is allowed to communicate.
2. Tailoring of addresses and numbers thereof; this must be done both service-specific and country-specific.
3. Countrywide availability of this SIM.
4. Common functions of a standard SIM (such as call forwarding, default available service number) must be excluded.
5. Simplified billing process.

Through these characteristics, it is guaranteed that these cards can be used only for the service for which they are intended, and from and to the defined source and destination addresses; misuse is prevented this way.

Moreover, this SIM card offers the possibility of implementing other communication services for other users.

In a special version, it is also possible to put limits other services that typically are not necessarily understood as Telematik services. This is done by providing only services that require a fixed number of addresses.

This limiting of use of the SIM card to defined source and destination addresses can be realized using various components in a mobile transmission chain:

- via the card
- via the terminal device
- via the mobile phone network

The disadvantage of checking the destination and source addresses in the SIM card or in the terminal device is that prior to establishing a connection, only outgoing connections from the terminal device to the network can be checked for correctness with regard to permissible addresses. Incoming connections can be checked for reliability using a so-called CLIP function (Calling Line Identification Presentation) which is an option in the communication networks, wherein the address (phone number) of the incoming caller is transferred to the person being called. Moreover, hidden within the implementation via the terminal device is a means to cheat since the terminal device's FDN functionality (Fix Dialing Number), which limits [calls] to specific destination and source addresses were not implemented error-free by all devices.

In contrast, it is possible to limit the ability to be reached and to limit destination addresses in an IN-capable (Intelligent Network) mobile phone network, for example via CAMEL (Customized Application Mobile Enhanced Logic). Essentially, what happens in CAMEL is a combination of GSM and Intelligent Network (IN) technologies. The fundamental concept of IN for flexible implementation, introduction and control of services in public networks is based on the separation of switching functionalities into basic call switching (Service Switching Point SSP) and a centralized service control unit (Service Control Point SCP), which communicate with the generic Intelligent Network Application Part (INAP) protocol via SS#7. This allows centralized, flexible and fast introduction of new services. GSM already exhibits a few parallels to the intelligent network. Although neither IN terminology nor IN protocol, namely SS#7 INAP, is used in GSM, the structure of the network corresponds to the philosophy of the IN. The subdivision of the GSM mobile network into functional units such as MSC and HLR and the logical use of SS#7 and development of MAP are similar to the subdivision of IN for units that communicate via INAP, such as SSP and SCP. The philosophy of CAMEL is to structure service implementations in GSM similar to the process in IN.

In this embodiment of the invention, the addresses solicited by the terminal device are first checked within the network regarding their reliability. This technology also allows incoming connections to be checked for reliability prior to the actual connection establishment.

Here, it is recommended that the assignment of customer profiles and their associated services be maintained with the allowed destination and source addresses through corresponding databases.

The range of subscriber relationship options, which was previously limited, can be expanded for third parties and for the billing thereof through subscription of these third parties. This means that two or more different users (contractual partners) could use the same SIM card physically for incoming and outgoing connections. The use itself is assigned to the respective contractual partner according to the originator principle. Thus, according to this principle, multiple SIM card usage rights are billed and administered.

1. SIM card for operation with a terminal device of a mobile telecommunication network, characterized in that it is designed such that the terminal device can only establish connections to fixed destination and/or source addresses.
2. SIM card according to claim 1, characterized in that it is designed as a Telematic SIM card.
3. SIM card according to one of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the destination and source addresses are phone numbers, URLs (Uniform Resource Locator) or APN's (Access Point Name).
4. SIM card according to one of claims 1 through 3, characterized in that the destination and source addresses permissible in connection with the SIM card are stored in a memory of the SIM card.
5. SIM card according to one of claims 1 through 3, characterized in that the destination and source addresses permissible in connection with the SIM card are stored in a database of the mobile communication network.
6. SIM card according to one of claims 1 through 5, characterized in that the SIM card only supports defined telecommunication services.
7. SIM card according to one of claims 1 through 6, characterized in that the mobile phone subscriber relationship associated with the SIM card can only be operated within a defined virtual private network (VPN).

8. SIM card according to one of claims 1 through 7, characterized in that the SIM card encompasses more than one different subscriber relationship, wherein the use of the SIM card is assigned according to the originator principle to the respective subscriber relationship.
9. SIM card according to one of claims 1 through 8, characterized in that the SIM card supports other services that are typically not understood to be Telematic services.
10. A process of limited use of mobile telecommunications networks by terminal devices,  
characterized in that  
a SIM card is used in the terminal device, said card only allowing connections to fixed destination and/or source addresses.

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DE 198 16 575A discloses a SIM card for operation with a terminal device of a mobile telecommunication network wherein the SIM card is designed as a Telematic SIM card, and wherein connections to the destination and/or source addresses can be established with the terminal device.

US-A-5 404 560 describes a mobile phone device with a memory element to store function selection information of the terminal device. Various terminal device functions can be activated or deactivated using the stored function selection information. For example, outgoing calls can be blocked entirely or partially.

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